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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION
OF
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS,
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS;

Together with a Statement of the Number, and Names of the CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, MINISTERS, CANDIDATES, VACANCIES, &c. in the Commonwealth; Letters of Correspondence with the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in other States, &c.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONVENTION.
MDCCXCV.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY

1881



Proceedings of the Covention of Congregational Ministers in Massachusets.

AT a meeting of the Convention of Congregational Ministers in Massachusets, at Boston, May 31, 1792, a committee was appointed in consequence of an address from the General Association of Ministers in Connecticut,* to consider a proposal of opening a correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the southern states, and the General Association in Connecticut.

In CONVENTION, May 30, 1793.

This committee reported, "That it is expedient for the Convention to choose a committee, who may write to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Churches in America, and the General Association in Connecticut, proposing to them not to receive or countenance any Candidate from us, who does not bring credentials from a regular body among us, known to them; and assuring them, that we will observe the same rule with respect to Candidates from them, and informing them that we shall be glad to hear from them upon all subjects which relate to the interests of our common christianity, and to communicate every information upon such subjects as may tend to promote the interests of Religion.

A committee was accordingly appointed, for the above mentioned purposes, consisting of the following gentlemen :

Rev. Joseph Willard, D. D.
Mr. French,
Dr. Thacher,
Mr. Osgood,
Mr. Morfe,
Dr. Eckley,
Mr. Holmes,

Rev. Dr. Fisk,
Dr. Tappan,
Mr. Lyman,
Dr. Robbins,
Dr. Hemmenway,
Mr. Little.

IN CONVENTION, May 29, 1794.

A question arising relative to the objects of Correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the General Association of Connecticut ;

Voted, That the objects to be attended to by the Committee of Correspondence shall be,

" 1. To open and maintain a friendly correspondence with the representative bodies of the Presbyterian and Congregational Ministers and Churches in other states, and to communicate to, and receive from them whatever may be useful, and promotive of the interests of the Christian Religion.

" 2. To collect an accurate statement of the number and names of the Associations, Ministers, Vacancies, Candidates, and non-associated Ministers and Churches throughout this Commonwealth, and digest and publish the same, for our own information, and the information of our brethren in other states."

The

* See letter from Rev. Dr. Goodrich, and Rev. Dr. Huntington.

The following Statement of the Associations, Ministers, &c. is now published, agreeably to the preceeding Vote of Convention.

LIST of ASSOCIATIONS, MINISTERS, &c.

	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Vacant.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Not associated.</i>
BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Stephen West, D. D.	Stockbridge	Great Barrington	Mr. Fuller	None
	Daniel Collins	Lanesborough	Alford	Mr. Barney	
	Thomas Allen	Pittsfield	Becket	Mr. Wallis	
	Seth Swift	Williamston	Dalton		
	David Perry	Richmond	Windfor		
	Oliver Ayer	West Stockbridge	Lenox		
	Eliphalet Steel	Egremont	Loudon		
	Ephraim Judson	Sheffield	Adams		
	Jacob Catlin	New-Marlboro'	Bethlehem		
	Eleazer Storrs	Sandisfield	Hancock		
	Joseph Avery	Tyringham	Mt. Washington		
	Alvan Hyde	Lee	New-Ashford		
	Rev. Mr. Camp	New-Canaan	These towns are in the state of New-York, bordering on Berkshire county, and their ministers are members of Berkshire association.		
Mr. Stevens	New-Concord				
Mr. Porter	Spencer Town				
Mr. Morfe	Green River				
The Rev. John Leland, of Patridgefield, and the Rev. W. G. Ballantine, of Washington, in this County, are members of the Mountain Presbytery, composed partly of ministers in this County, and partly of ministers in the County of Hampshire.					
The Northern ASSOCIATION in the County of HAMPSHIRE.	Rev. Preserved Smith	Rowe	Charlemont	Gardner Kellogg, jun. of Conway. Joel Baker, jun. of Conway. Rev. John Fisk, of Warwick, ordained at large.	Rev. David Parsons, of Amherst.
	Joseph Strong, jun.	Heath	Buckland		
	Jonathan Grout	Hawley	Leyden		
	Amasa Cooke	Barnardston			
	Roger Newton	Greenfield			
	Jesse Townshend	Shelburne			
	Nehemiah Porter	Ashfield			
	John Emerson	Conway			
	John Taylor	Deerfield			
	Rufus Wells	Whately			
	Joseph Lyman	Hatfield			
	Joseph Strong	Williamsburgh			
	Solomon Williams	Northampton			
	Jonathan Judd	South-Hampton			
	Payson Williston	East-Hampton			
	Enoch Hale	South-Hadley			
	Joel Hays	Granby			
	Benjamin Chapman	Granby			
	Justus Forward	Belchertown			
	Ichabod Draper	Amherst			
	Samuel Hopkins	Hadley			
	Joseph Ashley	Sunderland			
	Henry Williams	Leveret			
	John Hubbard	Northfield			

Rev. Samuel Taggart, of Colerain, and a parish in Conway, belonging to the Mountain Presbytery.

	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Vacant.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Not associated.</i>
N. E. Association, County of Hampshire.	Rev. Judah Nash Samuel Reed Joel Foster Joseph Kilburn	Montague Warwick New-Salem Wendell	Orange	None	None
Association in the Southern District of the County of Hampshire.*	Rev. Joseph Lathrop, D.D. Jesse Ives Antipas Steward Noah Atwater Joseph Badger Isaac Clinton Moses Warren Richard Salter Storrs Bezaleel Howard John M'Kinstry Aaron Bafcom Sylvanus Griswold	West-Springfield Munson Ludlow Westfield Blandford Southwick Wilbraham Longmeadow Springfield Chester West-Springfield	Wilbraham—1st. Parish Granville—1st. and 2d. Parishes Ruffell West-Springfield—Ireland Parish Montgomery	William Nash Herman Ball	
* No official return was made by this association. The account here given is the best the committee could obtain.					
Association in the Western part of Worcester County.	Rev. Ephraim Ward Joseph Appleton Nathan Filke, D.D. Joshua Paine Joseph Pope Stephen Baxter Daniel Foster Daniel Tomlinson Nehemiah Williams Josiah Dana Thomas Holt Joseph Blodget Joshua Crosby Reuben Mofs	Brookfield Sturbridge Spencer Western New-Braintree Oakham Brimfield Barre Hardwick Greenwich Ware		Abijah Tufts	
Association in and about Worcester.	Rev. Joseph Sumner Joseph Avery Reuben Holcomb Aaron Bancroft Isaac Bailey Samuel Austin Hezekiah Goodrich Hezekiah Hooper	Shrewsbury Holden Sterling Worcester Ward Worcester Rutland Boylston	Leicester Grafton Paxton		
Westminster Association.	Rev. Asaph Rice Ebenezer Sparhawk Joseph Brown Nehemiah Parker John Cushing —— Brigham Joseph Lee Solomon Reed —— Payson Joseph Eastabrook Ebenezer Tucker Jonathan Osgood	Westminster Templeton Winchendon Hubbardston Ashburnham Fitzwilliam N.H. Royalston Peterham Rindge, N. H. Athol Gerry Gardner	None		

	<i>Minist'rs.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Vacant.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Not associated.</i>
UNITY ASSO- CIATION.	Rev. Phineas Whitney Zabdiel Adams Daniel Chaplin John Bullard Edmund Foster William Emerson Nathaniel Thayer	Shirley Lunenburg Groton Pepperrell Littleton Harvard Lancaster	Fitchburg	Enoch Whipple Jona. Wheelock Jona. Procter John Kimball Jacob Herrick	
ASSOCIATION in and about CONCORD.	Rev. Josiah Bridge Peter Whitney Joseph Willard Jacob Biglow Jonathan Newell Moses Adams Phineas Wright David Kellogg Ezra Ripley Asa Packard Samuel Sumner	East Sudbury Northborough Boxborough Sudbury Stow Acton Bolton Framingham Concord Marlborough Southborough		Perley Howe Calvin Whiting Phineas Randall	
Haverhill As- sociation.	Rev. Giles Merrill Phineas Adams Stephen Peabody Jonathan Allen Peter Eaton John Kellog	Haverhill Do. 2d Church Atkinson, N. H. Bradford Boxford 2 Church Hamstead, N. H.	Methuen Amesbury 2d chh. Haverhill 1st. and 3d. churches.	Rufus Anderson	
Wilmington ASSO- CIATION.	Rev. Elizur Holyoke William Symmes Eliab Stone Henry Cumings John Marrett Caleb Prentiss Jonathan French Samuel Sargeant Solomon Adams	Boxford Andover Reading Billerica Woburn Reading Andover Woburn Middleton	Wilmington	John Abbot Abiel Abbot Jonathan Hale	Rev. Mr. Sand- burn, of Read- ing. Rev. Mr. Bar- ton, of Tewks- bury.
First Association on Merrimack River.	Rev. Samuel Webster, D.D. Thomas Cary True Kimball John Andrews	Salisbury 2d chh. Newb. port 1st chh. Newbury 1st chh. Newb. port 1st chh.	Salisbury 1st. chh. Newbury Newtown (N.H.) Hampton do.	Benjamin Rolfe	Rev. Naphtali Shaw, Ken- fington, New- Hampshire.
ESSEX middle ASSOCIATION.	Rev. John Cleveland Joseph Dana Levi Frisbie Ebenezer Bradford Samuel Spring Elijah Parish Ebenezer Dutch Asahel Huntington	Ipswich, Cheb. P. Ipswich Ipswich Rowley Newbury-Port Newbury, Byef. P. Bradford Topsfield	New-Rowley Newbury, 3d Par.		

	<i>Minist'rs.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Vacant.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Not associated.</i>
SALEM ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Phillips Payson	Chelsea	Manchester		
	Thomas C. Thacher	Lynn	2 Parishes in		
	Benjamin Wadsworth	Danvers (N. Par.)	Gloucester		
	Isaac Storey	Marblehead			
	Ebenezer Hubbard				
	Tho. Barnard, D.D.	Salem			
	John Prince				
	William Bentley				
	Joseph M ^c Keen	Beverly			
	Manaf. Cutler, L.L.D.	Hamilton			
Eli Forbes	Gloucester				
Daniel Fuller					
Rev. Joseph Willard, D. D. and L.L. D. President of Harvard University, in Cambridge. David Tappan, D. D. Hollis Professor of Divinity in the University.					
ASSOCIATION in and about CAMBRIDGE.	Rev. Jacob Cushing	Waltham	None	Daniel Marrett	None
	Jonas Clark	Lexington		Daniel Stone	
	Joseph Jackson	Brooklyn		Jonathan Fisher	
	David Osgood	Medford		John Pipon	
	Charles Stearns	Lincoln		Micah Stone	
	Richard R. Eliot	Watertown			
	William Greenough	Newton			
	Jonathan Homer				
	Samuel Kendall	Weston			
	Abiel Holmes				
John Foster	Cambridge				
Thaddeus Fiske					
BOSTON ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Sim. Howard, D.D.		None	None	None
	Samuel West				
	Jeremy Belknap, D.D.				
	John Lathrop, D.D.				
	Peter Thacher, D.D.	Boston			
	John Eliot				
	Joseph Eckley, D.D.				
	John Clarke				
	John T. Kirkland				
	John Bradford				
Eliphalet Porter	Roxbury				
Thomas Gray					
Jedidiah Morse, D.D.	Charlestown				
MENDON ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Elijah Fitch	Upton	Milford	Josiah Holbrook	
	David Sanford	Medway, W. Prec.	Mendon (S. Par.)	Nathaniel Hall	
	Ebenezer Chaplin	Sutton, N. Prec.			
	Nathaniel Emmons	Franklin			
	David Avery	Wrentham			
	Isaac Stone	Douglas			
	Edmund Mills	Sutton			
	Caleb Alexander	Mendon			
	John Crane	Northbridge			
	John Robinson	Westborough			
Timothy Dickinson	Holliston				
Nathaniel Howe	Hopkinton				
Samuel Judson	Uxbridge				

Rev. Samuel Mead, Danvers
(fourth parish.)
Daniel Hopkins } Salem
Joshua Spaulding }
Daniel Oliver, Bevc. 2d P.
Adoniram Judson, Wrentham

	<i>Minist'rs.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Vacant.</i>	<i>Candidates.</i>	<i>Not affiliated.</i>
Affiliation in and about DEDHAM.	Rev. Jason Haven Benjamin Caryl Elijah Brown Thomas Prentiss Jabez Chickering Thomas Thacher George Morey Stephen Palmer	Dedham, 1st Par. Dover Sherburn Medfield Dedham, 2d Par. Dedham, 3d Par. Walpole Needham	Medway, 1st Par.	Daniel Clarke Saunders Samuel Bailey	Rev. Steph. Badger, Natick Anthony Wibard, Quincy Nathan Robbins, Milton Jedidi. Adams, Stoughton Edward Richmond, do. Zachariah Howard, do. Philip Curtis, Sharon Thad. M. Harris, Dorch.
BAY ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Zephaniah Willis John Allyn William Shaw Elijah Leonard Kilborn Whitman Gad Hitchcock, D.D. John Mellen David Barnes Nehemiah Thomas Josiah Crocker Shaw Daniel Shute, D.D. Henry Ware Jacob Norton	Kingston Duxborough Marshfield Pembroke Hanover Scituate Cohasset Hingham Weymouth		Abner Lincoln Peter Whitney Ebenezer Withington	
PLYMOUTH ASSOCIATION.	Rev. John Porter John Howland Chandler Robbins, D.D. Caleb Turner Perez Fobes, L.L. D. Ephraim Briggs Simeon Williams Samuel Niles Zedekiah Sanger Joseph Barker John Reed Ezra Sampson Noble Everett William Reed David Gurney Thomas Andros Jonathan Strong	Bridgwater Carver Plymouth Middleborough Raynham Halifax Weymouth Abington Bridgwater Middleborough Bridgwater Plympton Wareham Easton Middleborough Berkley Randolph		Eleazer Taft Phinehas Taft Eph. Briggs, jun.	Rev. Ivory Hovey, Plymouth Samuel West, D.D. New-Bedford Samuel Angier, Bridgwater Lemuel Lebaron, Rochester Calvin Chaddock Jonathan Moore, Rochester
Barnstable ASSOCIATION.	Rev. Nathan Stone Timothy Alden John Mellen Jonathan Burr Henry Lincoln John Simpkins Nathan Underwood	Yarmouth Barnstable Sandwich Falmouth Harwich			
Eastham Affiliation.	Rev. Edward Cheever Jonathan Bascom Samuel Parker Jude Damon Thomas Roby Levi Whitman	Eastham Province Town Truro Chatham Wellfleet			Rev. Gideon Hawley, Marshpee. Rev. Oakes Shaw, Barnstable, West Church.

An Account of the ordained and settled Ministers, Associations, vacant Churches, Towns and Settlements, and of the Candidates in the District of Maine, in June, 1794.

In the county of York are seventeen ordained settled ministers, viz.

Kittery,	Rev. * Mr. Chandler,
	* Joseph Litchfield,
	* Jonas Hartwell.
York,	† Isaac Lyman,
	† Samuel Langton.
Wells,	Daniel Little,
	Moses Hemmenway, D. D.
Arundel,	Silas Moody.
Biddeford,	Nathaniel Webster.
Pepperrelborough,	John Fairfield.
Berwick,	* John Tompson,
	* Matthew Merriam.
Sandford,	Moses Sweat.
Alfred,	John Turner.
Buxton,	Paul Coffin.
Lebanon,	* Isaac Hasey.
Fryeburg,	William Fessenden.

Those distinguished by this mark * belong to the Piscataqua association. Those distinguished by this mark † are unassociated. The rest are of the association in the eastern part of the county.

No vacant churches. There are ten new towns and plantations vacant, in which no churches are yet instituted. Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Rolfe, candidates, are employed at present. The one at Limington, the other at Parsonfield.

In the county of Cumberland are sixteen settled ministers, viz.

Scarborough,	Rev. Benjamin Chadwick,
	Thomas Lancaster.
Cape Elizabeth,	Ephraim Clark.
Falmouth,	Thomas Brown,
	Ebenezer Williams.
Portland,	Thomas Smith,
	Samuel Dean,
	Elijah Kellog.
North Yarmouth,	Tristram Gilman.
Freeport,	Alfred Johnson.
Brunswick,	* Ebenezer Coffin.
Harpswell,	Samuel Eaton.
Bridgtown,	* Nathan Church.
Standish,	* Jonathan Gould.
Gorham,	David Jewet.
Turner,	John Strickland, Presbyterian.

They compose one association. Those with this mark * have been lately settled ; whether associated, is unknown.

Vacant Churches.

2d In North Yarmouth, New Gloucester, Bakerstown, Gray, Windham.

Nine towns and plantations vacant. We know of no candidates employed at present in this county, except Mr. Gillet, at New Gloucester.

In the county of Lincoln are six ordained ministers, not yet associated, viz.

Georgetown,	Rev. Ezekiel Emerson.
Topsham,	Jonathan Ellis.
Woolwich,	Josiah Winship.
Pownalborough,	Alden Bradford.
Bristol,	Alexander McLean, Presbyterian.
Canaan,	Jonathan Calef.

Six churches vacant at Bath, Hallowell, Winthrop, Newcastle, Warren, Boothbay.

New towns and plantations vacant, about forty.

Candidates preaching in the county.

Mr. Marret, at Pownalborough ; Mr. Huse, at ditto. Mr. Cushman, at Winflow ; Mr. Fridenburg, at Bath and Broadbay.

In the county of Hancock are two ordained ministers, viz. at

Deer-island,	Rev. Peter Powers.
Sedgwick,	Daniel Merrill.

A vacant church at Blue-Hill.

New towns and plantations vacant, twenty-one.

We know not whether any candidates are at present preaching in this county.

In the county of Washington is one settled minister, viz. Rev. James Lyon, at Machias.

Vacant churches none, that we know of.

New towns and plantations vacant, about twenty.

We know of no candidates at present in this county.

All the ministers above-mentioned, in said District of Main, are of the congregational persuasion, except the two Presbyterians noted in the foregoing list. There are also a considerable number of preachers of the Anabaptist persuasion, who are chiefly itinerants.

The beforementioned vacant towns and plantations (especially the three lower counties) have, for a number of years past, received religious instruction from missionaries sent among them by the care of government, and the society for propagating the gospel.

The above is a true account, according to our best information.

DANIEL LITTLE.

MOSES HEMMENWAY.

Wells, June 23, 1794.

The convention, solicitous to collect and preserve accurate documents for a history of our churches, in May, 1794,

Voted, "That all the congregational ministers in the commonwealth of Massachusetts be requested to give a history of their respective churches, and of the churches in their vicinity, if vacant, and to make returns, as soon as may be convenient, to the Rev. Dr. Belknap, of Boston, to be by him kept on file, after having been fairly recorded by the scribe of the convention, in a book to be kept by him for the purpose."

A RECOMMENDATION from the CONVENTION of the CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS, at Boston, May 26, 1790.

SINCE it is obvious, that some ingenious, worthy young men have laboured under great disadvantages in the discharge of the ministerial office, in consequence of commencing preachers previously to being properly qualified; and, since others, especially in our new settlements, who are both ignorant and vicious, have palmed themselves as publick teachers upon destitute flocks and congregations: In a word, since the scriptures authorize no men to preach the gospel, except those who are learned, sound in the faith, apt to teach, and men of prudence and religion, we take liberty, as the ministers of CHRIST, to recommend the following things.

1. We earnestly recommend it to all young gentlemen, who design to devote themselves to the work of the ministry, to spend that portion of time in the study of divinity, previously to appearing in the pulpit, which improved and judicious advisers shall think necessary to qualify them for publick teachers.

2. We also earnestly recommend it to congregational ministers and people, not to encourage or employ any one as a candidate for the ministry, except he shew, by written testimonials, that he has been carefully examined respecting his acquaintance with the principles of natural and revealed religion, and other things necessary to qualify him for the work of the ministry; and that he is properly recommended to it, as a man of knowledge and good character, by some regular congregational association or presbytery.

3. Since there are some worthy ministers in this commonwealth, who are not in an associated capacity, we beg leave to suggest the importance of their commencing members of regular associations, as soon as opportunity present: For, we are all members of the same body, and are called by the gospel of CHRIST to co-operate with each other, in promoting the interest and importance of a learned, judicious and religious ministry.

If these things meet the approbation of our absent brethren, and the concurrence of our churches, and young gentlemen who design to devote themselves to the work of the ministry, and tend to increase our love and fellowship, to secure the rights of conscience, and to promote the interest of our GLORIOUS REDEEMER, by encouraging and supporting a learned, sound and religious ministry, we shall have the greatest reason to bless God for that singular unanimity which has attended a large convention in adopting the measure.

SIMEON HOWARD, *Moderator of the Convention.*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,

PERMIT us to introduce ourselves and the subject of our letter to your friendly regards by the following extracts.

" At a Meeting of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, at the House of the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D D. June 15, 1790.

A motion made by the delegates of the western association in Fairfield county, respecting a general union of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches throughout the United States of America, was taken into serious consideration, and largely debated ; on which the following question was proposed ; Whether, in the opinion of this association, any further degree of union between the churches of this state, and their brethren of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches throughout the United States of America, would be expedient and desirable ? Passed in the affirmative.

Voted, also, that in the opinion of this association, this purpose might be effected, in some good measure, by letters of correspondence respecting the state of the churches and of religion in the several states, and the different prevailing sects, and the impostors that shall arise from time to time, with an authentic information of their characters, and such other matters as may be thought conducive to the general promotion of the gospel, and prosperity of the churches.

The following gentlemen, Dr. Goodrich, Mr. Huntington of Middletown, Dr. Dwight, and Mr. Eliot, were accordingly appointed a committee to correspond with our brethren of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the United States, to communicate to them this resolve, and to desire their opinion on the best method of accomplishing these valuable ends. Voted, also, that it is the opinion of this Association, that if the several Associations shall approve of this correspondence, that it be continued from year to year, in such manner as shall hereafter be thought best.

A true extract from the minutes of the Association.

Test. BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, *Scribe.*

At a Meeting of the South Association of Hartford County, Weathersfield, Oct. 5, 1790.

This Association taking into serious consideration the advice of the last General Association (represented to them) with respect to a correspondence with our brethren in the United States, in order to promote a more thorough knowledge of the state of religion through the nation, and take united measures to promote the common cause, do unanimously concur with said advice, and recommend all proper exertions to comply with it, and carry the benevolent and laudable designs of it into execution.

BENONI UPSON, *Scribe.*

To the foregoing we can add, that as far as hath come to our knowledge, the advice of the General Association hath been unanimously approved and recommended by all the particular Associations in this state.

And now, reverend and dear brethren, we beg leave to subjoin our earnest request, that you will be pleased, by your free correspondence, from time to time, to assist us with your friendly, wise, and pious advice, with regard to the premises.

Nothing, gentlemen, can be more foreign to our view and desire, than any attempt to introduce any thing like an hierarchy, or form a secular combination and power to support any particular scheme or profession of religion. We only wish to be instrumental in subserving the common cause of christianity, and to shew a becoming zeal and faithfulness in discharging our professional duty as ministers in that kingdom which is not of this world. And while such great and remarkable events, under the administration of the Supreme Governor of the world and King of Zion, have taken place, and are still taking place, in the new and old world, no doubt in exact fulfilment of prophecy, and accomplishment of the wonderful scheme of redemption, we are humbly of opinion, that the faithful ministers and followers of Jesus have a special call, and are put under special advantages, to exert themselves in opposition to the tyranny of sin and Satan, and all the mischiefs, devastations, and horrors they have occasioned, and in promotion of the liberties and blessings of the religion and kingdom of the Prince of Peace, who is head over all things to the church, and who will reign till all his enemies are made his footstool, and in whose name peace is proclaimed on earth and good will to men.

To gentlemen of your well-known character and piety, we presume no apology is necessary for this address, but assure ourselves of your prayers and wise council and efforts in the common cause of our holy religion ; and have now only to beg leave to subscribe ourselves your brethren and companions in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

Middletown, January 1, 1791.

ELIZUR GOODRICH.
ENOCH HUNTINGTON.

Rev. President WILLARD.

P. S. An address directed to us, or to the moderator of the next General Association of the ministers of the state of Connecticut, to be convened at Washington, in the county of Litchfield, in the state of Connecticut, will be a safe direction, and a way to expedite the desired correspondence.

The next General Association will meet on the third Tuesday of June next.

To the Members of the General Association of Ministers in Connecticut.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,

THE convention of ministers in this commonwealth, of the Congregational denomination, at their meeting at Boston, in May, 1791, had the happiness to receive an address from the General Association in Connecticut, through their committee. This address was read before the convention, and in consequence a committee was chosen, of which the Rev. President Willard was chairman, to make such reply to the address as they might think proper, and to receive any further communications which you might please to make. At the commencement in New-Haven, the September following, the Rev. President Willard being present, verbally reported to your committee, the proceedings of our convention, mentioning, in behalf of the committee, their readiness to receive your fur-

ther proposals relative to a friendly correspondence. Here matters have since rested.—In convention, May, 1793, we were appointed a committee to write to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, in America, and the General Association of ministers in Connecticut, and were directed, by the Convention, to propose to you “not to receive or countenance any candidate from us, who does not bring credentials from a regular body among us, known to you; and to assure you, that we will observe the same rule, with respect to candidates from you.” We were directed also to inform you, that we shall be glad to hear from our Congregational brethren in Connecticut upon all subjects which relate to our common christianity, and to communicate information on such subjects as may tend to promote the interests of religion and the prosperity of our churches.

It is with real satisfaction that we communicate to you this our commission, and shall be happy to confer with you on the best method of accomplishing its desirable objects. The subject of a friendly correspondence with our Presbyterian and Congregational brethren at the southward, came into view at our last convention, (May 28, 29, 1794), and a question arising relative to the object of this correspondence, after some discussion, it was “*Voted*, That the objects to be attended to by the committee of correspondence shall be,

1. To open and maintain a friendly correspondence with the representative bodies of the Presbyterian and Congregational ministers and churches in other states, and to communicate to, and to receive from them, whatever may be useful, and promotive of the interests of the christian religion.

2. To collect an accurate statement of the number and names of the associations, ministers, vacancies, candidates, and non-associated ministers and churches throughout this commonwealth, and digest and publish the same for our own information, and the information of our brethren in other states.

When this statement is completed, which, we hope, will be in the course of a few months, we shall transmit you a copy. We are taking measures, likewise, to collect a history of our churches, by putting into the hands of each minister, throughout this commonwealth, a set of questions, embracing all the proper objects of inquiry, and requesting an answer to them.

We shall be glad to confer with you on the mode of certifying the good character and standing of candidates passing to and from us. It is necessary that we should define what shall be considered as good and sufficient testimonials, both by you and us. We wait for a proposal from you on the subject.

Be assured, gentlemen, that it is as far from our view as from yours, to “attempt to introduce any thing like an hierarchy, or form a secular combination and power to support any particular scheme or profession of religion.” Our only aim and desire, is to promote a spirit of harmony and brotherly love—to communicate information for mutual improvement—and to unite our endeavours with those of our other brethren in supporting and advancing the genuine cause of our common christianity. The peculiarities, difficulties, and declensions of the present times, in our apprehension, call for union, vigor, and becoming zeal, among, and in the ministers of religion. It is greatly desirable that we should be acquainted with each other,

and as far as possible act in concert. Divisions among ministers operate great injury to piety and religion.

In the agreeable expectation of hearing from you on the subject of the foregoing, and wishing you all prosperity in your ministerial labors in the service of our common Lord, we subscribe ourselves yours, &c.

JOSEPH WILLARD,	} Sub-committee * in behalf of the com- mittee, of corres- pondence.
DAVID TAPPAN,	
PETER THACHER,	
JOSEPH ECKLEY,	
JEDIDIAH MORSE,	

Boston, June 2, 1794.

* Here the names of the whole committee were inserted.

"To the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

REV. SIR,

WE are appointed a committee by the convention of Congregational ministers, in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, to inform you that, at their last meeting, they passed the following vote, viz. "That it be proposed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in America and the General Association in Connecticut, not to receive or countenance any candidate from us who does not bring credentials from a regular body among us known to them; assuring them that we will observe the same rule with respect to candidates from them, and informing them that we shall be glad to hear from them upon all subjects which relate to the interests of our common christianity, and will communicate every information upon such subjects as may tend to promote the interests of religion."

We are also directed to inform you, that measures are taking to collect information with respect to the present state of our churches, which we shall take the earliest opportunity to transmit to the General Assembly.

You will please to communicate the above to the General Assembly, and we shall be happy to receive an answer by the earliest opportunity upon this interesting subject.

We are, Rev. Sir,

In the name and behalf of the Congregational ministers of Massachusetts,
Your brethren in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

Joseph Willard,	} Committee.
David Tappan,	
Peter Thacher,	
Joseph Eckley,	
Jedidiah Morse,	

Boston, May 8th, 1794."

Rev. Gentlemen,

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1794.

YOUR communication of the 8th instant, in the name and behalf of the convention of Congregational ministers in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, has been received; and we embrace the earliest opportunity to express our hearty approbation of your proposal to preserve the churches committed to our care, respectively, from being visited and consequently injured, by deceivers, under the appearance of regular ministers. To prevent the evil as much as possible, we would farther propose, that no minister or preacher from either, be received and encouraged by the other, unless he produce, beside recent testimonials from regularly constituted authorities, private letters, or some corroborating testimony in his favour, not so capable of being forged. The forms of the first being known, an artful man may, without much difficulty, fabricate a certificate in his own behalf, and have it apparently authenticated in due order, with the assistance of an accomplice or two, while he will hardly venture to pass his own contrivance for the last:—At least he will very seldom venture it with success. This method has been practised by us for a considerable time in receiving clerical characters from Europe; it has been found the most effectual to prevent imposition, and now appears equally necessary to be observed in the admission of those who may come from distant parts of our own nation. And though no correspondence by letters may have existed between any persons residing in the districts from which, and to which, a regular minister or preacher proposes travelling, sufficient intercourse prevails between intermediate places, to admit of his being regularly handed, and sufficiently recommended, till he reach the object of his destination. In guarding against the mischief under consideration, the General Association of Connecticut, and this General Assembly, by joint agreement, appoint and mutually communicate the names of a certain number of members in each body, most conveniently situated for the purpose, to authenticate the testimonials of those who pass into each others bounds, one of whose names, at least, must appear in every certificate. This we just mention and leave it with you to judge whether a similar proceeding would be adviseable or necessary between you and us.

Notwithstanding the pains used to train up young men for the work of the ministry, so rapid is population among us, that our vacancies encrease much faster than our ministers, and it may be truly said that the harvest is great and the labourers in comparison few.

Our attention has been, for some time, directed towards collecting materials for a history of the Presbyterian church through the United States, in the prosecution of which some things may perhaps occur worthy of being communicated;—and we shall on all occasions show ourselves disposed to perform whatever may seem expedient to promote a more intimate connexion between the Congregational churches of Massachusetts and our's, whose interests are so closely united,—to testify our respect for their characters and to evidence our sincere wishes for their prosperity.

We are, gentlemen, with unfeigned regard and esteem, Your affectionate brethren in our common Lord.

Signed by order,

Rev. Dr. Joseph Willard,
Rev. Dr. Joseph Eckley,
Rev. Jedidiah Morse,

Alexander M^rWhorter, Moderator.

Rev. Dr. Peter Thacher,
Rev. David Tappan,

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,

Boston, May 31, 1794.

AT a meeting of the convention of Congregational ministers of this commonwealth, on the 28th, 29th, instant, it was

“Voted, That the objects of the committee of correspondence * shall be—

1. To open and maintain a friendly correspondence with the representative bodies of the Presbyterian and Congregational ministers and churches in other states; and to communicate to, and receive from them whatever may be useful, and promotive of the interests of the christian religion.

2. To collect an accurate statement of the number and names of the associations, ministers, vacancies, candidates, and non-associated ministers and churches, throughout this commonwealth, and digest and publish the same for our own information, and the information of our brethren in other states.”

It is with satisfaction that we communicate this vote to our brethren in New-Hampshire, with whom we should be happy to open a correspondence on the subjects specified in our commission.

Hoping shortly to hear from you, in answer to this—and wishing that grace, mercy, and peace may be multiplied to you, We subscribe ourselves, your friends and brethren in the ministry of the gospel,

JOSEPH WILLARD,
DAVID TAPPAN,
PETER THACHER,
JOSEPH ECKLEY,
JEDIDIAH MORSE,

} Sub-committee, in
behalf of the com-
mittee of corres-
pondence.

To the convention of Congregational ministers
in Concord, New-Hampshire.

* The names of the committee, and when appointed, are here mentioned.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,

Newmarket, October 22, 1794.

THE convention of ministers in New-Hampshire received your communication of May 31, at their meeting in Amherst, last June, and appointed us a committee to correspond with you on the subject of your letter.

In consequence of this appointment, we should have returned an answer without delay, had not the letters from Mr. Evans, scribe of the convention, to the members of the committee in the lower part of this state, who were not present at the meeting of the convention, informing them of their appointment, and of the time and place agreed upon for meeting the other members to answer your letter, miscarried; so that they were unacquainted with the affair 'till long after the time prefixed for their meeting.

C

We

We are authorized to assure you, that our convention fully approve the plan transmitted to us, and think it is well adapted to "promote the interests of the christian religion."

In compliance with your propofal, we will communicate to you, as soon as authentic information can be obtained, an accurate ftatement of the feveral things propofed to us, and any other matters which we fhall think may promote the object of the votes. Meantime, we are, with much efteem and affection, your brethren in the fellowfhip of the gofpel,

SAMUEL MACCLINTOCK,
STEPHEN PEABODY,
WILLIAM MONSON,
JOSEPH BUCKMINSTER, } Sub-committee, of
the committee of
convention.

The following is a fummary Account of the Synods, Prefbyteries, Licentiates, and Congregations, within the Bounds of the General Affembly of the Prefbyterian Church, in the United States of America, in the Year 1794, taken from the Minutes of the Affembly.

	PRESBYTERIES.	No. of Minifters.	No. of Congregations.	Vacancies.	Licentiates.
SYNOD of N. York and N. Jerfey.	The Prefbytery of Dutchefts	5	5	3	1
	Long-Ifland	13	13	3	2
	New-York	23	25	5	3
	New-Brunswick	15	26	7	1
	Albany	8	18	10	2
SYNOD of Philadelphia.	Prefbytery of Philadelphia	13	23	6	2
	Newcaftle	12	25	8	3
	Lewis	7	18	3	0
	Baltimore	7	13	5	2
	Carlifle	20	32	10	3
	Huntingdon	11	17	0	0
SYNOD of Virginia.	Prefbytery of Redftone	7	48	Unknown	4
	Ohio	5	9	0	0
	Hanover	8	10	Unknown	3
	Lexington	13	18	Unknown	7
	Transylvania	No re-	turns.		
SYNOD of the Carolinas.	Prefbytery of Orange	20	54	22	9
	South Carolina	No re-	turns.		
	Abington	No re-	turns.		

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